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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: December 1, 2008

SUBJECT: **527 CMR 31 Interpretations**

In response to the following questions submitted to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, the Board approved the following interpretation at their November, 2008, meeting regarding 527 CMR 31 – Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

Question 1: Specifically under section 31.05(1)(b) Centralized Fossil fuel burning consisting of kitchen appliances equipment with intermittent ignition devices. The question is if you have a gas stove or other kitchen appliance with a standing pilot how does that fit into this section? Further, it is my understanding of the code that a piece of kitchen equipment that does not have an intermittent ignition device, no CO protection is required per the technical options section of the code and thus the space does not require any protection.

Answer 1: The subcommittee reviewed this request. First, a CO device is required to be installed for kitchen stoves that operate on fossil fuel in accordance with the state law. Further, a kitchen stove without an intermittent device is considered centralized fossil fuel equipment as defined. The subcommittee recommends that the regulation be modified to clearly identify this interpretation.

Question 2: Under 527 CMR 31.02 definition of Combination Appliance, is it the intent that this would apply to both standalone residential alarms listed to UL217 and UL 2034, as well as system detectors listed to UL 268 and UL 2075?

Answer 2: The definition of combination appliance is applicable only to those devices listed to meet UL 217/UL2034.

Question 3: Is it allowable to install line voltage (hard-wired) smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms interconnected to each other as recommended by the manufacturer?

Answer 3: The Board recommends newly installed hard-wired smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

If you have any questions please call the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in western Massachusetts (413) 587-3181.

SDC/bhs